

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Katherine Scott <katherscott10@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 2:35 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 5344

Testimony Concerning HB 5344

Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016

Katie Scott

Humane Society of the United States, Food Policy Coordinator (New England)

Connecticut Votes for Animals, Volunteer

Stratford Animal Rescue Society, Volunteer

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344, Desmond's Law, AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.

I care deeply about all animals and believe that they deserve the utmost protection under our justice system.

In addition to working for The Humane Society of the United States and volunteering with Connecticut Votes for Animals, I volunteer at the Stratford Animal Shelter and have seen first-hand the type of cruelty animals face at the hands of those who treat them as nothing more than property. It's reprehensible that 80% of the animal cruelty charges brought against individuals in Connecticut are dismissed. For these cases, there is no justice for the abused animal, and potentially violent criminals are permitted to walk free.

The case I think of most is the Fred Acker case, which resulted in at least 10 dogs (and more cats) being held and fostered at our shelter. He received no more than a six-month suspended sentence and two years probation for neglecting dogs who were left exposed to frigid conditions. Likewise, as the article noted, Acker paid only \$13,481 in restitution, "far less than the more than \$52,000 town taxpayers have paid to house and feed the dogs."

This is not justice. More has to be done to speak up for the animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Best,

Katie Scott, Milford